

REMARKS

Claims 11 to 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 11 to 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Denend et al. (U.S. Patent 5,974,972).

Claims 11, 13, 14 and 16 have been amended and new claims 21 to 28 have been added. Support is found for example in the specification at paragraphs [0021] to [0026]. Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice.

Reconsideration of the present application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 11 to 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action identified “packing sleeve” and “figure axis” as having unclear meanings. Claims 11 and 13 have been amended to clarify these terms and claims 11 to 14, 16 and 17 and 20 are submitted as now being clear and definite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, of claims 11 to 14, 16 and 17 and 20 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 11 to 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Denend et al. (U.S. Patent 5,974,972).

Denend et al. discloses a method for manufacturing a carrier sleeve 82 onto which printing plates 60 are arranged that includes wrapping a rectangular sheet 30 around a hollow forming cylinder 64 having a plurality of small holes 66. (Col. 5, line 33 to col. 6, line 3; Figs. 3 to 8). Carrier sleeve 82 is mounted on a printing cylinder via compressed air supplied by an air hose 94. (Col. 6, lines 4 to 45; Fig. 9).

Claim 11, as amended, recites “[a] packing sleeve for a cylinder in a printing press, the packing sleeve being an intermediate sleeve for a printing plate or printing blanket comprising:
an evacuable structure of voids; and
an outer surface radially external to the voids for supporting the printing plate or printing blanket, the outer surface including at least one recess for fixing the printing plate or printing

blanket."

It is respectfully submitted that Denend et al. does not disclose "an intermediate sleeve for a printing plate or printing blanket comprising: an evacuable structure of voids" as recited now in claim 11. The Examiner cites column 3, lines 17 to 29 of Denend et al. as teaching the "sleeve" of claim 11, which describes an apparatus for forming a printing carrier sleeve. The apparatus (i.e., forming jig 62) for forming a printing carrier sleeve (i.e., carrier sleeve 82), is shown in Figs. 5 and 6 of Denend et al. at further described at column 5, line 32 to column 6, line 3. Forming jig 62 includes a hollow forming cylinder 64 having a plurality of small holes 66 and is used to join edges of a rectangular sheet 30 to form carrier sleeve 82. Thus, it appears that the Examiner is alleging that hollow forming cylinder 64 corresponds to the "packing sleeve" of claim 11 and small holes 66 correspond to the "voids" of claim 11. It is respectfully submitted that hollow forming cylinder 64 is not the "packing sleeve" required by claim 11 because hollow forming cylinder 64 is not "an intermediate sleeve for a printing plate or printing blanket" as now recited in claim 11, but is merely used for creating carrier sleeve 82. Also, hollow forming cylinder 64 does not include "an outer surface radially external to the voids for supporting the printing plate or printing blanket" or "the outer surface including at least one recess for fixing the printing plate or printing blanket" as now recited in claim 11. Channels 100 in forming cylinder 64 are provided with elongated fingers 102 that are used to prevent carrier sleeve 82 from prematurely adhering to tape 78. Channels 100 are clearly not used for fixing the printing plate or printing blanket and thus are different from the "at least one recess" recited in claim 11. Furthermore, carrier sleeve 82 cannot be the "packing sleeve" of claim 11 because carrier sleeve does not include "an evacuable structure of voids" as recited in claim 11 or an outer surface including "at least one recess for fixing the printing plate or printing blanket" as recited in claim 11.

Based on the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of claim 11 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

New Claim

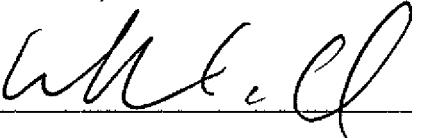
New dependent claims 21 to 28 have been added. Support is found for example in the specification at paragraphs [0021] to [0026]. Claims 21 to 28 are dependent on claim 11 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 11.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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